Howland Wood - Curatorial

Cerny, Ernest

[Numismatist,
Denver, CO]

1935-1937

The American Numismatic Association

Federal Charter Granted 1912

Aug. 20 '35.

Office of
District Secretary
For State of

American Numismatic Society

Gentlemen!

Enclosed 2 Colorado sales tax tokens, which I'm sending for your collection, with my compliment. If any further issues (different) will send them to you.

Resp.

Ernest Cerny,

P.O. B. 111.

Denver, Colo.

August 23, 1935.

Mr. Ernest Cerny
P. O. Box 111
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the two Colorado sales tax tokens for which we thank you very much. We appreciate your sending these to us as several have been sent to us from other parts of the country and we are glad to be forming a collection of these tokens.

Very truly yours,

RR:JC

Assistant Curator

Mr. Howland Wood! 5/28/37.

Dear Sir!

Enclosed you'll find one 1922 Grant commemorative half dollar, with star. Now, this half dollar, look entirely different from the picture, as illustraded, in your article in April number of Coin Collectors Journal. I got 37 the 1922 Grants, first when they came out 1922 — In 1925 or so I got 6. or 7 more from Texas dealer. For over 10 years I didn't get any additional Grants, with star. So this enclosed specimen, must came from either of the two above mentioned sources. Three years ago, I traded with Scott Co. N.Y. 4 of the Grants with star, for other commemorative half dollars. — Early this spring I traded, two more with another firm in East, for rare Boones. Now I got only 4. of the Grants with the star. 37 them are as the specimen i'll, in April number of C.C.J. — But this one I don't Know! so I'm sending it to you for identification, and will you please, tell me if the piece is genuine

/.

Grant with star, or 17's a fake. — I got it so long since 1925 or before, before any body ever heard of any fake Grant's with the star. —

For your trouble I'm sending you 25 cts cash (you wrote me once, you charging 25 ct each, for identification of coins) — and also sending return postage please send it back registered, with your verdict, soon as your time permit.

Thanking you heartily for your favor, — and expecting to send you few more American and foreign coins, for identification soon —

I remain very resp.

Ernest Cerny,
P.O. B. 111.
Denver, Colorado.
(A.N.A. # 2220)
State Secretary for Colorado.

June 9, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O. Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

Your favor of the 28th came to hand while I was away.

I spent several days studying your Grant half dollar with the star. I was positive it was genuine from the start but I wanted to prove it. This is the first piece that I have seen that does not show under an ordinary glass the different points I mentioned in Coin Collector's Journal. This distressed me very much as I thought these points were constant. However, there are other indications that I did not mention that check up with the star type. At the present time I am not saying what these are because a clever faker could change one of these two points, but he cannot add these defects that I did mention.

The only reason why your piece does not show the defects is probably because it was one of the first ones struck and these defects did not come out in the die until a number of impressions had been made.

I am very glad you sent this on as I am glad to know that an occasional piece might be found that did not show these defects. Under a very high-powered glass which I used, I could see faint traces of the one under the nose, and a few traces in the lettering.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

June 9, 1937

Ernest Cerny, Esq.,
P.O. Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

I have examined your Grant Half Dollar and although it does not show the defects that I called attention to in the Coin Collector's Journal, I nevertheless pronounce this a Genuine Grant Half Dollar with Star. There are certain other characteristics of the piece with the star that are different than those without the star.

Very truly yours,

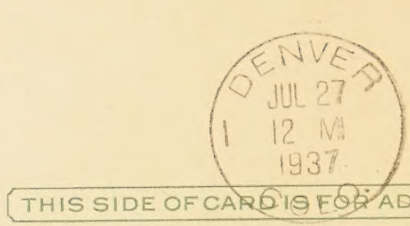
Curator

HW ks

Dear Mr. Wood! 7/27'37.

after you described the 1922 Grant with star half dollar in April 1937 Coin Collectors Journal, I think it'll be very nice from you to inform collectors of the new variety. I sent you recently for examination. You can do it better then I can. Kindly advise if, when your time permit you figure to write article about this piece as I'm figuring to write article in Numismatist about it. but I'd rather you do it. Resp.

Ernest Cerny, P.O. B. 111. Denver, Colo.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Howland Wood
c/o American Numismatic Society,
156 at Broadway,
New York City, N.Y.

August 12, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O.Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny;

I have delayed answering your postcard as I have been studying the proposition over concerning the Grant half dollars with star. I have received two or three others just like yours and have now come to the conclusion that two dies were employed, one showing the defects that I described and the other not showing them. Those that do not show the defects show a faint outline around the G of Grant and one or two other microscopical differences in the lettering, all of which confirms my belief that two dies were used.

A peculiar thing about the whole matter is this: I have closely examined, before writing the first article, about a dozen pieces with the star and every one I noted showed the defects. Kuxterer of Scott's said he had never noticed any genuine star pieces without the defects. Consequently I think that the bulk of these were struck from what we might call the defective die. In a few days I am going to look through several hundred pieces without the star to see if I can detect any more dies. I have found the pieces with the star struck from the two dies I have already described.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

August 19, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O. Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

I am still studying the question of that Grant half dollar with the star. If you still have this piece, would you mind sending it on to me again as I made no impression of it when you first sent it on and I am a little hazy now on some of the details after studying the other two.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

Oct. 9, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
PO Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

Did yo. get my letter of August 19th? I am very anxious to again see y ur Grant half dollar if you have it. I have delayed publishing concerning the second variety with star. I have seen two others but want to make as complete a check up as possible and I am especially anxious to again sse yours. Those that do not conform to my fir t findings, that is, those showing defects in the background, show the G of Grant outlined in places.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

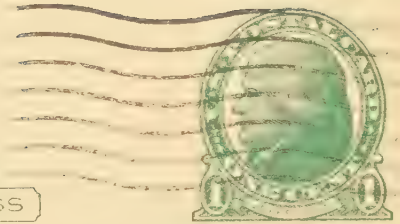
Mr. Howland Wood: Oct. 15/37

Dear Sir: Your letter of Oct. 9 rec. I will get the Grant 1/2 D. with strip and I'm sending it to you for further examination under separate cover Sat. October 16th. — Reason I didn't send it when you demand it for second time in your letter of August 19 will be fully explained. So excuse the delay it was unavoidable and I'm sure you'll forgive me when you hear my story.

Resp.

Ernest Cerdy

P.O.B. 111. Denver, Colorado.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th St.,
New York City,
N.Y.

(c/o Mr. Howland Wood
Curator.)

Dear Mr. Wood! Oct. 16/37.

Reason I didn't send the half dollar in Question when you asked for it second time in your letter of Aug. 19 simply was that I misplaced it when I rec. it from you back first time. I put it in coat pocket in suit which I discarded shortly after; about same time (when I rec. the Grant from you first time) or shortly after I received by trading about 24 or 30 var. commemorative half dollars. Well!

I got envelopes described them and put them in vault thinking all that time, that the Grant with 'star was with them, but which was reposing all that time in the coat pocket. Shortly after you wrote me late in August I got all my commemoratives out (575 of them) ready to send it to you, but imagine my surprize when I could not find it. What became of it? I search and upset whole house half dollar couldn't be located. Finaly swearing like a trooper, I gave up and mark it as a loss. On October 6. gathering up all junk of all kind in preparation to give it to salvation army among it was the suit I was wearing on that day, when I rec. the Grant from you first time. Looking thru pockets there I found the half dollar. Of course I was glad to find it after I gave up hope. Being so late after your demand, I thought myself ./.

no use to send it now by this time probably you look over several of them I thought. I should at least notify you of the fact that time but being so disgusted for some reason or other I didn't do it. So I'm sending it now for your inspection again, note all peculáarities and return it when you thru with it. also excersise care not to mix it with some other Grant with star. One time I had 10 Grants with star; now I got only 3, incl. this one I must have more than one of this kind I traded with Scott and Tatham they may have some of them. Scott got 4. and Tatham got 3.— Sincerely yours,

Ernest Cerny
P.O.B. 111. Denver, Colorado.

Oct. 22, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O.Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your Grant half dollar. I will return it shortly. I wsh to study this further as I consider it genuine and yet I have seen other coins struck from a different die that I consider genuine also, as well as those pieces that I published in the Coin Collector's Journal.

As only 5,000 were made, I am very much surprised that they used three dies in striking these silver pieces.

Thank you for sending this on and I am herewith sending you 26¢ for postage.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

Nov. 9, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O. Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

I am herewith returning you your Grant half dollar with star and many thanks for sending it on. I have just written a note to the Coin Collector's Journal stating that since my previous article several Grant Half Dollars with star have been sent on for inspection and that so far I have discovered that the 5000 Star pieces were struck from three different dies. I have seen two from your die, two from another die but the bulk were from the die I have already described.

Again thanking you, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

Mr. Howland Wood! Nov. 10/37.

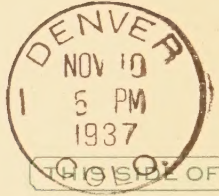
Dear Sir!

Kindly advise when I shall expect the Grant half dollar back. In a few days I'll leave Denver and don't expect to be back till after Christmas. Hence the reason I'm writing.

With best regard,

Ernest Cerny

P.O. B. 111. Denver, Colo.



BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Howland Wood,
c/o American Numismatic Society
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City,
N. Y.

Nov. 13, 1937

Mr. Ernest Cerny,
P.O. Box 111,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Cerny:

Our letters crossed. By this time you should have the Grant Half Dollar back again with my comments about it and what I have done.

Again thanking you for sending it on, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks